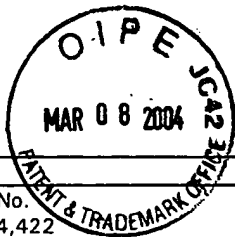


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TRANSMITTAL LETTER			Case No. 10593-4
Serial No. 09/814,422	Filing Date March 21, 2001	Examiner B. Pantuck	Group Art Unit 3731
Inventor(s) Emin Tuncay Ustuner			
Title of Invention AUTOMATIC SURGICAL SUTURING INSTRUMENT AND METHOD			

## TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Transmitted herewith is Second Response, Response Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, Expedited procedure - Examining Group 3731 (in response to the Office Action dated January 29, 2004) and return post card.

- ☐ Small entity status of this application under 37 CFR § 1.27 has been established by verified statement previously submitted.
- ☐ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.
- ☐ Petition for a \_\_\_\_\_ month extension of time.
- ☒ No additional fee is required.
- ☐ The fee has been calculated as shown below:

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

	Claims Remaining After Amendment		Highest No. Previously Paid For	Present Extra
Total		Minus		
Indep.		Minus		
First Presentation of Multiple Dep. Claim				

## Small Entity

Rate	Add'l Fee
x \$9 =	
x 43 =	
+ \$145 =	
Total add'l fee	\$

or

## Other Than Small Entity

Rate	Add'l Fee
x \$18 =	
x \$86 =	
+ \$290 =	
Total add'l fee	\$

- ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. 23-1925 (BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE) in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☐ A check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional filing fees required under 37 CFR § 1.16 and any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR § 1.17 associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1925. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☒ I hereby petition under 37 CFR § 1.136(a) for any extension of time required to ensure that this paper is timely filed. Please charge any associated fees which have not otherwise been paid to Deposit Account No. 23-1925. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

*Craig A. Summerfield*  
 Craig A. Summerfield  
 Registration No. 37,947  
 Attorney for Applicant  
 Customer No. 00757 - Brinks Hofer Gilson Lione

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE  
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 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610  
 (312) 321-4200

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to:  
 Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on March 3, 2004.

Date: March 3, 2004Signature: *Craig A. Summerfield*